

Calvert County Water Trails

Discover the Charm of the Chesapeake

Calvert County presents a natural landscape shaped by wind, tide, and time. When you paddle the waterways of Calvert County, you will journey into a world rich in history and filled with natural splendor. From the pre-colonial era to modern times, Calvert County's waterways were well-used routes for commerce and community. Dugout canoes, sailing workboats such as skipjacks and bugeyes, and steamboats all plied these waters in times past. Today, recreational paddlers follow the same routes and revisit a rich history, including early colonial settlements, farms and woodlands.



Calvert County's historic waterways attract recreational boaters to the area.

Outdoor Recreation and Natural Areas

Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county, only 345 square miles, much of which is farmland, woodland, nature parks and other open spaces. Even as its population has grown, Calvert County has maintained many of its rural characteristics, including preservation of historic building, archeological sites, tobacco barns and fisheries.

Boating and Waterways

The eastern side of Calvert County fronts the Chesapeake Bay, and is characterized by steep wooded cliffs. The Patuxent River side, to the west, contains a mixture of rolling hills and flat lands, primarily in agricultural use. The Patuxent River was noted as early as 1608 on a map made during one of Captain John Smith's voyages. It is the longest river entirely in the state of Maryland, and runs approximately 115 miles from its source in Howard County to its confluence with the Chesapeake Bay at Drum Point in Solomons. The abundance of water, and the presence of an extensive fleet of charter fishing vessels, make the County a popular destination for recreational boaters and anglers.

The Rod and Reel is popular for charter fishing.

The Patuxent River Water Trail is a multi-county initiative that encourages lawful and safe public access to the Patuxent River. The water trail is made possible through the involvement of several public park and natural resource protection agencies, private non-profit partners and substantial participation from citizen volunteers. For more information visit patuxentwatertrail.org.



Small boats provide access to shallow marshes.

A host of creeks and smaller waterways etch the Calvert County landscape. Some of particular note include: Fishing Creek in Chesapeake Beach, Hall Creek in Dunkirk, Cocktown Creek in Huntingtown, Battle and Parkers creeks in Prince Frederick, St. Leonard Creek in St. Leonard, and Back Creek in Solomons. Most of these are navigable by kayak or canoe.

Beaches

The County's beaches are popular areas for relaxing and swimming. Fossil hunting is a traditional Calvert County pastime. The Miocene formations in the Calvert Cliffs hold sharks teeth, dental plates from ancient rays, and countless fossilized shells. The best beaches for fossil hunting can be found at Flag Ponds Nature Park and Calvert Cliffs State Park in Lusby, Breezy Point Beach & Campground and Bay Front Park in Chesapeake Beach, and the public beach in North Beach. Learn more by visiting co.cal.md.us/flagponds or dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/calvertcliffs.aspx.



Fossils can be found on Calvert's beaches.

Recreational Trails

The County's recreational trails are an easy way to connect to nature. A mix of local and state agencies and a host of non-profit organizations, preserve, manage, and operate parks and natural areas with a variety of trails.

The Prince Frederick–Bay Overlook Trail at the American Chestnut Land Trust, is the longest hiking trail in the county.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Jefferson Patterson Park, and Flag Ponds Nature Park have diverse and extensive trail systems to explore.

The towns of Solomons Island, North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, feature boardwalk trails that allow visitors to be near the water, see the sights, recreate, and access a host of local restaurants and amenities.

Trails at North Beach (top), Jefferson Patterson Park (middle), and Chesapeake Beach (bottom).



Cultural Heritage

Native Americans

Algonquin tribes settled along the shores of the Patuxent River, which is interpreted as "at the little fall." Archeological traces of a Native American seasonal camp dating from the Woodland Period (1000 BCE–1600 CE) have been located on the eastern bank of the Patuxent River in Calvert County. The Woodland Indian Village at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) provides a glimpse into life as it might have been when Captain John Smith visited the people who lived along the Patuxent River. Visit jefpat.org/village.html to learn more.



The re-created Woodland Indian Village at JPPM.

War of 1812

Between 1812 and 1815, Southern Maryland was in the thick of the young nation's struggle against the British. During the Battle of St. Leonard Creek, Commodore Joshua Barney's fleet of small gunboats and barges played cat and mouse with the British fleet in the Patuxent. This battle, which took place off the shores of what is now Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, was the largest naval battle in Maryland's history but only delayed the inevitable invasion of Washington DC after the Battle of Bladensburg. On land, the British destroyed many homes and businesses in Calvert County, including the July 1814 burning of Huntingtown, near Kings Landing Park.

Working the Water

Calvert County has a long and storied tradition of working on the water. Until the 20th century the waterways were the main means of transportation for both people and goods. In the mid-1800s, steamboats plied the Patuxent and Chesapeake providing reliable transportation to the Baltimore commercial markets. Independent and commercial fisherman harvested rockfish, crabs, clams and oysters in all seasons. Local shipbuilders were expert craftsmen, building and designing bugeyes, skipjacks and other sailing vessels. Sites connected to the waterman's tradition, include the J. C. Lore Oyster House in Solomons, the shipbuilding exhibit at Calvert Marine Museum and the fisherman's shanty at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Visit calvertmarinemuseum.com to learn more.

In 1867, Captain Isaac Solomon established a commercial fishery at the southern tip of the county, where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay. The area became known as Solomons Island. Early industries like shipbuilding, a cannery and a fishery contributed to the county's economy.



Drum Point Lighthouse in Solomons Island

Bayside Communities

In the late 1890s the towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach featured beach cottages, hotels, bathhouses, casinos, a race track, an amusement park and a 1600-foot boardwalk. Passenger steamers arrived daily from Baltimore during the summer months and tied up at a mile-long pier that stretched into the Chesapeake Bay.



A vineyard in Calvert County

Agriculture

During the 1800's, Calvert County's main industry was the growing of tobacco. The industry relied heavily on slave labor. When the Civil War began, county residents were torn: Maryland was officially aligned with the North, but the tobacco growers in Calvert were most likely sympathetic with the Southern cause. Tobacco remained a major industry in Calvert until 1998 when a government buyout agreement paid farmers to stop farming the crop. Fortunately, the buyout offered incentives for the farmers to stay in agriculture, and today Calvert's farmers produce a variety of new crops at vineyards, organic farms, and in greenhouses.

Natural History

The Chesapeake Bay is an estuary — a semi-enclosed body of water, open to the sea, where salty water from the ocean mixes with freshwater from the land. It is the largest estuary in the United States, and North America. The land and waterways of Calvert County are home to a variety of fish, mammals and birds.

Rockfish

The rockfish, also known as striped bass, is the official fish of the State of Maryland. Rockfish have an olive green back, fading to light silver on its sides, with a white underside and seven or eight dark, continuous stripes running from head to tail. Adult rockfish swim in the ocean but lay their eggs in fresh water. They spawn from April to June in the rivers and streams that feed the Chesapeake Bay. The life span of rockfish can be up to 30 years. Known for its size and fighting ability, the rockfish is considered by many to be the premier sport and commercial species on the Bay. It is a challenge to catch and a delight to eat. For more information on rockfish and other species found in the area, visit dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries.



Striped bass

Muskrats and Beavers

Common muskrats are named for the musky odor produced by their scent glands. They are medium-sized rodents with waterproof, brown fur, and have a thin, rubber-like tail covered in scales. Muskrats are common throughout Maryland and live in both brackish and freshwater waterways, swamps and marshes. They feed on aquatic plants like cattails and sedges, but if food is scarce, they will eat crayfish, snails, mussels, frogs and fish.



Muskrat

The American beaver is the largest rodent in North America and the second largest rodent in the world. Its body is covered with thick, reddish-brown fur and its tail, which is used for steering when swimming, is hairless and paddle-shaped. Beavers live near the water in lodges and they cut down small-to-medium trees to dam up streams and rivers to create ponds. Both muskrats and beavers are commonly found in Calvert County.

Birds

A major stop on the Mid Atlantic Flyway, Calvert County's geography provides habitat for many different kinds of birds. The Parkers Creek watershed has been designated a Maryland Important Bird Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society for its diverse community of forest-interior birds.

Purple Martins are the county bird and members of the Swallow family. They typically nest in cliffs and hollow trees, but those found East of the Rocky Mountains, are dependent on man-made nesting structures. Purple Martins like to return to the same nesting sites each year. They are social birds that often nest in colonies, but will not tolerate House Sparrows or European Starlings in their colony.

The Red-winged Blackbird is a familiar sight atop cattails, along soggy roadsides, and on telephone wires. The males are an even, glossy black with red-and-yellow shoulders. Females are crisply streaked, brownish overall and paler on the breast.



Purple Martin



Red-winged Blackbird

Bald Cypress

Bald cypress trees are typically found in the southeast, but Battle Creek Cypress Swamp is one of the northernmost stands in the United States. Individual cypress trees can live for over 1,500 years. These conifers shed their feathery leaves in the fall. In winter, they are distinguished by their grayish brown bark. When planted in water, knobby "knees" grow from the ground around the trunk to provide the plant with more oxygen. The special habitat at Battle Creek was recognized as a National Natural Landmark in 1965.



Battle Creek Cypress Swamp

Boating and Public Water Access

Public Access and Boating

Maryland is a popular destination for recreational boating, paddling, fishing, and crabbing. Calvert County has many public water access sites for launching and retrieving non-motorized vessels and trailers boats. For more information on public water access sites in Calvert County and other parts of Maryland, visit dnr.maryland.gov/Boating/Pages/water-access/boatramps.aspx.

Leave No Trace

Practice the stewardship principles of Leave No Trace:

1) Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know your route and the limitations of yourself and your group.
- Carry the proper equipment and clothing.
- Notify someone of the time you intend to return.

2) Stay in Designated Areas

- Keep to designated trails and public areas.
- Keep groups small and avoid trampling plants.
- Protect wildlife and your food - store rations securely.
- Leave recreation areas and picnic sites cleaner than you found them.

3) Dispose of Waste Properly

- Clean fish at designated areas.
- Pick up litter and dispose of all waste in proper receptacles or pack it out with you.

4) Leave What You Find and Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect our natural and cultural heritage - leave all items as you found them.
- Keep noise to a minimum - enjoy the music of nature.
- Respect private property and the privacy of others.

For more information visit www.lnt.org, call 1-800-332-4100.

Wildlife Viewing Ethics

1) Act responsibly.

Stay clear of nests, dens and rookeries. Do not touch or feed wild animals. Do not allow pets to interfere with wild animals.

2) Avoid getting too close.

View wild birds and other animals from an appropriate distance. If animals change their behavior, appear nervous, keep looking at you with head up and ears pointing toward you, or if the animal does not resume its normal activity, then you are too close and should move away.

3) Make your observation, then move on.

No matter what you are looking at, birds in a nest, fish in a pond, or mammals in the woods, remember that they can't leave and that you are interrupting normal behavior.

4) Do Not chase animals or birds.

Do not chase animals trying to get a better glimpse or photo. Do not follow them or behave in any way that might be seen as harassment. Do not allow your pets to do it either.

5) Move quietly and slowly.

At popular viewing sites limit your movement and noise level so you do not distract the wildlife. Loud noises, sudden movements or an unannounced approach can startle and cause stress to animals.

6) Do not use calls or whistles, or try to rouse animals in any way.

This can interrupt breeding cycles, drive birds from their territories, or make animals 'call shy' so they don't respond to the real thing.

7) Divide large groups of people into small groups.

Small groups of people are less disturbing, usually talk more quietly, and tend to act in a more responsible way than big groups do.

Paddling and Boating Safety Tips

Recreating on the water exposes boaters to changeable weather and waterway conditions. The routes depicted in this publication offer a variety of opportunities for paddlers of all levels. Consider your personal skills and abilities as well as those of anyone with you prior to launching, then select your route accordingly. Those who are new to paddling should consider using a guide or outfitter, or take part in a group paddle at a park. Review the safety tips below before you get on the water.



Paddle with others for safety.

Wear a properly-fitted, U.S. Coast Guard approved, life jacket while on the water. (See *Maryland Boating Regulations* below)

Boating safety increases with numbers. Boat with others and carry a spare paddle.

Know your route and any potential hazards along it. Review maps and weather conditions before launching. Be aware of obstacles such as fallen trees, debris, and islands which you may encounter along the route.

Dress appropriately for the weather and water conditions in addition to air and water temperatures. Always wear protective footwear.

Carry a supply of food and water adequate for the length of your trip. Stay hydrated and protected from the sun year-round to minimize the danger of dehydration and heat exhaustion.

Keep your weight centered and as low as possible at all times, especially when entering and exiting a boat. Never paddle farther from shore than you are prepared to swim.

If your boat flips over, remain calm. Hold on to your paddle and the boat if possible. Try to reach a calm, shallow spot or the shoreline, then empty the boat and re-enter.

Be alert to possible weather changes. Thunderstorms can be common during the warm weather months and are usually accompanied by temperature drops, increased winds and dark clouds. Get off the water immediately if you see lightning.

For more information on paddling and boating safety visit cgaux.org or dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/Pages/BoatingSafety/home.aspx

Maryland Boating and Fishing Regulations

Personal Flotation Devices: All recreational boats must carry one wearable life jacket (Type I, II, III, or V) for each person on board. Any boat 16 ft. and longer (except canoes & kayaks) must also carry one throwable life jacket (Type IV). Life jackets must be Coast Guard approved, in good and serviceable condition, readily available and of appropriate size for the intended user. If a type V life jacket is to be counted toward minimum carriage requirements, it must be worn.

Life jackets are required on non-motorized vessels including canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and any other device capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water or ice. Remember, life jackets will keep you from sinking, but not necessarily from drowning. Extra time should be taken in selecting a properly sized life jacket to insure a safe fit. Testing your life jacket in shallow water or a guarded swimming pool is a good and reassuring practice. All children under age 13 must WEAR a US Coast Guard approved life jacket (Type I, II, III or V) while underway on a recreational vessel.

Boat Registration: A boat, whether commercial or recreational, must be registered in Maryland if it is: equipped with any kind of primary or auxiliary mechanical propulsion; not currently registered with the U.S. Coast Guard (documented); and is being used principally in Maryland. Registering your vessel in Maryland involves applying for a Certificate of Title as well as registration. A single application form is used for both and can be presented in person or mailed to one of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Service Centers. For more information visit dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/licensing.aspx.

Fishing Licenses: Maryland's recreational fishing requirements and rules are divided into Tidal (Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries) and Non-Tidal. A fishing license is required for Maryland residents and non-residents to fish in the Patuxent River and its tributaries. Annual licenses require a fee, which allows fishing from January 1 through December 31. A 3-day or 5-day license can be purchased for a reduced fee. For more information visit compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompassportal.



Always wear a life jacket.



Be courteous when launching.

For More Information

Calvert County Natural Resources Division
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
phone: 410-535-5327
email: CypressSwamp@CalvertCountyMD.gov
or visit co.cal.md.us/NaturalResources



Patuxent Riverkeeper
17412 Nottingham Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
phone: 301-579-2073
email: info@paxriverkeeper.org
or visit patuxentwatertrail.org



Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Public Access, Water Trails, and Recreation
Planning Program
580 Taylor Avenue, Suite E-2, Annapolis, MD 21401
DNR coordinates the creation of a statewide system of public water access sites and water trails and provides technical, planning, and design assistance to local governments and other partners. To learn more, visit dnr.maryland.gov/Boating/Pages/mdwatertrails.aspx.



In Case of Emergency
In case of emergency, contact the Sheriff's Department Dispatch at 911 and specify that you are in Calvert County, Maryland or call the Maryland Natural Resources Police at 410-260-8888.



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Layout, design and maps by Lisa Gutierrez. Text by Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources and the Calvert County Water Trails Committee

WATER TRAIL Adventures

in

Calvert County, Maryland



Discover the Charm of the Chesapeake

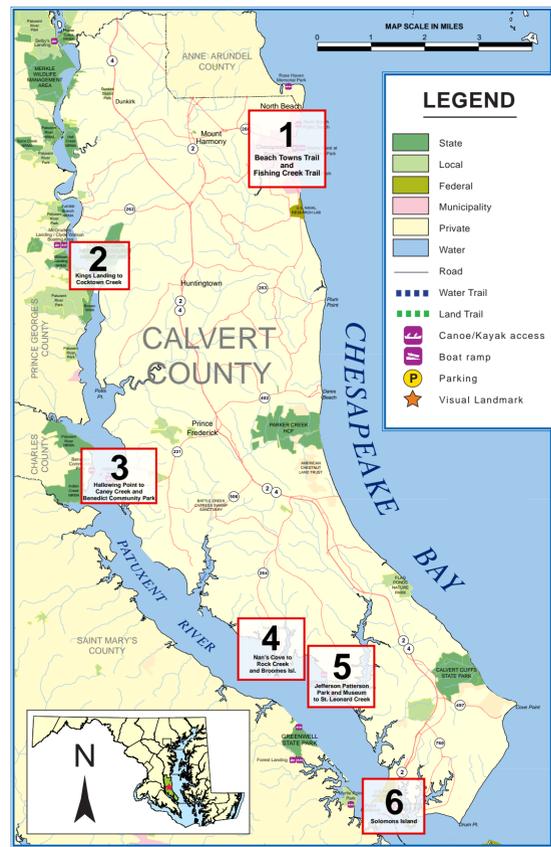
Produced through a partnership between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Calvert County

CALVERT COUNTY WATER TRAILS

Discover the Charm of the Chesapeake

This guide describes approximately 29 miles of water trails in Calvert County and depicts routes that provide a variety of opportunities for paddlers of all levels. Following the descriptions of each trail is information on the public access sites associated with that trail. This publication is meant to be used as a reference for existing public boating access sites and facilities and is intended to promote public enjoyment of waterways. It is strongly recommended that you consult a range of other detailed maps, charts and supplemental information geared to your specific needs when planning for or undertaking extended excursions. Visit www.co.cal.md.us/wateraccess for more sites.

- 1 BEACH TOWNS TRAIL AND FISHING CREEK TRAIL
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- 5 JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK TO ST. LEONARD CREEK TRAIL
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Respect Private Property and Do Not Trespass

The access sites on this map are public lands available to all. Be aware that most of the property along the Patuxent River and its tributaries is privately-owned. Do not trespass.

Check Conditions Before you Go

Water recreation involves risks so safety is of utmost importance. The waterways depicted in this publication are subject to rapidly changing conditions and can become hazardous due to tides, currents or weather. Check the status of all these before launching.

For more information on weather conditions in Calvert County visit the National Weather Service website at www.weather.gov/. To view the marine forecast visit www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/Forecasts/FZUS51.KLWX.html.

1 BEACH TOWNS TRAIL AND FISHING CREEK TRAIL

BEACH TOWNS TRAIL

Distance: Routes vary from 1.5 miles to approximately 2.33 miles one-way.
Difficulty: Challenging

This trail links existing water access sites located directly on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay from North Beach to Chesapeake Beach and Bay Front Park. This route is considered challenging because paddlers are exposed to the open waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the influence of tides, currents, and weather conditions. Always consult tide charts and the weather report before attempting this route.

Launch from the northern end of North Beach Public Beach and head south towards the Town of Chesapeake Beach. Stay clear of the North Beach Pier and watch for fishing lines as you pass it. Chesapeake Beach is approximately 1.5 miles south of the launch site. Use extreme caution as you approach, or cross, the entrance to Chesapeake Beach Harbor which is marked by extensive rock jetties on either side. This area is frequented by motorized vessels of all sizes. Wind, waves, boat wakes, and vessels moving at speed pose a danger to paddlers who are unskilled or unaware. Continue south past Chesapeake Beach Harbor towards Bay Front Park. The end of the boardwalk trail marks the location of the park. Be sure to land on the beach area prior to reaching the restricted cliff area. The distance from North Beach to Bay Front Park is approximately 2.33 miles. The park is easy to spot from the water thanks to the stretch of sandy beach. When weather or water conditions are questionable, or if you desire an easier paddling route, take the opportunity to explore the more sheltered waters of Fishing Creek described below.

FISHING CREEK TRAIL

Distance: Approximately 5.5 miles round trip if you go the full length of the creek, but the route can be made shorter at any time.
Difficulty: Easy

This trail starts and ends at the soft access at Marina West in Kellam's Park. Launch and head west along Fishing Creek. The sheltered nature of the creek makes it an easy route for paddlers of all abilities. The trail passes working waterfronts, marshes and upland forests. Kayaks and stand up paddleboards (SUPs) can be rented at the marina. The Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail parallels the creek for a short distance and has interpretive signage.

NORTH BEACH PUBLIC BEACH

GPS: 39°36'12.52"N 77°17'37.08"W
Managed by: Town of North Beach, 410-286-3799

Amenities: This site features a sandy beach, boardwalk, and fishing pier. Non-motorized vessels should launch at the north end of the beach away from the swimming area and pier.
Hours and fee: Open dawn until dark. A fee is required to access the beach and fishing pier. Fees are subject to change so visit the town's web site at www.northbeachmd.org/welcome-center/pages/beach for details.

Directions: From MD Rt. 2 (Solomons Island Rd.), go east onto MD Rt. 260 (Chesapeake Beach Rd.). Go north onto MD Rt. 261 (Bayside Rd.) and continue into town. Public parking is located across from beach.
Address: 9023 Bay Avenue, North Beach, MD

MARINA WEST / KELLAM'S PARK

GPS: 39°30'26.44"N 77°22'38.76"W
Managed by: Rod and Reel Marina West, 410-257-2230
Amenities: This site has a soft launch for non-motorized vessels (located across from the marina office) and two, multi-lane concrete boat ramps for launching motorized boats. Kayak and SUP rentals are available at this site. Call ahead for details. There is a large paved lot for cars. Overflow parking for trailers is located next to Kellam's Park.
Hours and fee: Open sunrise to sunset. Launch fees are collected in an honor box on the wall of the marina office.

Directions: From MD Rt. 2 (Solomons Island Road), go east on MD Rt. 260 (Chesapeake Beach Road). Go south onto MD Rt. 261 (Bayside Road) then turn right onto Gordon Stinnett Blvd. Turn left into the park parking lot.
Address: 4055 Gordon Stinnett Blvd. Chesapeake Beach, MD

2 KINGS LANDING TO COCKTOWN CREEK

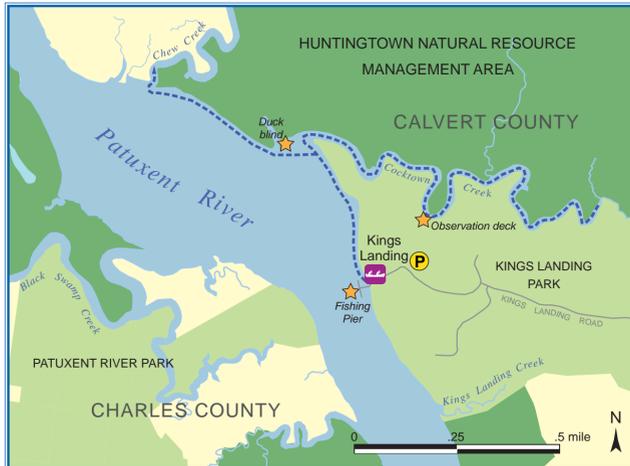
Distance: Approximately 3 miles round trip, but can be made shorter.
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

This trail starts and ends at Kings Landing Park and takes paddlers along the sheltered and meandering waters of Cocktown Creek. Paddlers seeking a more challenging experience have options for extended routes by continuing north or south on the Patuxent River, going north on Chew Creek or west towards Black Swamp Creek. Paddling the open waters of the Patuxent River can be difficult if it is windy or if there is a strong current.

Launch from Kings Landing Park and go north on the Patuxent River. Turn right onto Cocktown Creek which will be the first creek on your right. The entrance to the creek can be easily missed. A duck blind is located along northern shore at the mouth of the creek, so keep an eye out for that and turn before you pass it. The creek is shallow and calm. It winds through wetlands and low marsh bordered by higher forested areas. Depending on the time of year, you may see osprey nests and a variety of plants and vegetation. Approximately 1 mile from the mouth of the creek the waterway begins to narrow. Be sure to leave enough room to turn around, then retrace your route back to the landing area.

KINGS LANDING PARK

GPS: 39°36'12.52"N 77°17'37.08"W
Managed by: Calvert County Natural Resources Division, 410-535-2661
Amenities: This site is suitable for launching non-motorized watercraft only. The launch area is a sandy beach located to the right of the fishing pier. There is no parking directly at the waterfront. Visitors must park in the gravel lot and carry their vessels along the trail (approximately 170 yards) to the water.
Hours and fee: Open Daily Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day (9 a.m. to



8 p.m.), and Labor Day through Memorial Day Weekend (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. No fee is required.
Directions: Take MD Rt. 2 south (Solomons Island Road) towards Huntingtown. Turn right onto Old Town Road, then take the first right turn onto Huntingtown Road. Continue onto Kings Landing Road. The park is located at the end of the road. Follow the park road to the parking lot by the pool.
Address: 3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD

3 HALLOWING POINT TO CANEY CREEK AND BENEDICT COMMUNITY PARK (CHARLES COUNTY) TRAIL

Distance: Approximately 4 miles round-trip, but can be made shorter by turning around at any time.
Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging

This route takes paddlers a short distance north along the Patuxent River, beneath the bridge, and into the sheltered waters of Caney Creek. The entrance to the creek is approximately 1/4 mile from the boat ramp and is located near a private community pier and rip rap along the shoreline. The creek meanders through an area of low marsh and wetlands. Continue along the creek for approximately 1.75 miles. Caney Creek ends in a shallow open area where you can turn around and retrace your route.

There is an option to paddle from Hallowing Point to the public water access site at Benedict Community Park located directly across the Patuxent River in Charles County. Benedict Community Park is a small beach area located on the southern shore at the foot of the bridge. This site is popular with fishermen so be alert and watch for fishing lines. The distance from Hallowing Point to Benedict Community Park is just over 1 mile round-trip, but if it is windy or there is a strong current, the crossing can be challenging.

HALLOWING POINT

GPS: 39°22'10.72"N 77°23'16.79"W
Managed by: Maryland DNR / Maryland Park Service, 410-535-3382
Amenities: This site has two concrete boat ramps suitable for launching motorized and non-motorized vessels. The ramp closer to the bridge is often filled with sand which makes it easier to launch non-motorized craft. There is a large paved parking lot for trailers and cars. Restrooms are located on the hill next to the Department of Natural Resources building.
Hours and fee: The park is open from sunrise to sunset for boaters only. No fee is required.
Directions: Take MD Rt. 2/4 (Solomons Island Road) and turn right onto MD Rt. 231 west (Hallowing Point Road). The entrance to the ramp is on the south side of the road just before the bridge.
Address: 6904 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick, MD

BENEDICT COMMUNITY PARK (CHARLES COUNTY)

GPS: 39°19'39.08"N 77°24'55.70"W
Managed by: Charles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 301-932-3470
Amenities: There are no amenities at this site. Parking is along the road shoulder on the south side of MD 231. Use extreme caution when entering or exiting your vehicle as traffic along MD 231 moves fast and there is no barrier. Access to the river is the sandy beach at the foot of the bridge.
Hours and fee: Sunrise to sunset, year round. No permit or fee required.
Directions: Take MD Rt. 2/4 (Solomons Island Road) and turn right onto MD Rt. 231 west (Hallowing Point Road). The entrance to the ramp is on the south side of the road just before the bridge. Continue across the bridge and turn left just after crossing it.
Address: MD Route 231, at the foot of the Patuxent River Bridge, Benedict, MD



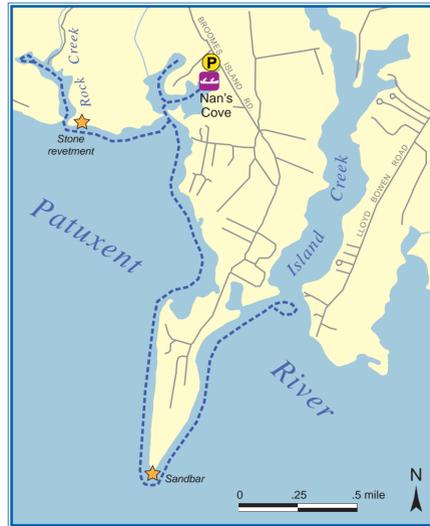
4 NAN'S COVE TO ROCK CREEK AND BROOMES ISLAND TRAIL

Distance: The routes into the small coves adjacent to Nan's Cove cover a distance of approximately 1 mile. Nan's Cove to Rock Creek is 2 miles round-trip. Nan's Cove to the mouth of Island Creek is 5 miles round-trip
Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging

This trail starts and ends at Nan's Cove. Those who want a shorter or moderate, route can explore the small coves near Nan's Cove or continue north into Rock Creek. The northern shoreline, just before the mouth to Rock Creek, features an extensive stone revetment. These options take paddlers through calmer, sheltered areas and wetlands. More experienced paddlers can brave the open waters of the Patuxent River and go south towards the tip of Broomes Island and then north toward the mouth of Island Creek. At times, an extensive sandbar extends from the tip of the island into the river. The tip of the sandbar is approximately 1.7 miles from Nan's Cove. This route is considered challenging because the Patuxent River is commonly influenced by tides, currents and weather conditions. Always consult tide charts and the weather report before attempting this route. Those looking for an extended paddling option can continue south on the Patuxent River towards Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. The northern access point at the park is approximately 4.45 miles from Nan's Cove.

NAN'S COVE

GPS: 39°36'12.52"N 77°17'37.08"W
Managed by: Calvert County Natural Resource Division, 410-535-5327
Amenities: This site is for launching non-motorized watercraft only. There is a floating dock off of the fishing pier that has a kayak launch component. This site features a small paved parking area with space for approximately 6 cars. This site does not have restroom facilities.
Hours and fee: This site is open all year during daylight hours. No parking between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. No fee.
Directions: Take MD Rt. 2/4 (Solomons Island Rd.) south to Prince Frederick. Go through Prince Frederick and continue for approximately 3 more miles. Turn right on Route 264 (Broomes Island Road). Continue for approximately 5 miles, then turn right into the Nan's Cove parking lot.
Address: 8081 Broomes Island Road, Broomes Island, MD



5 JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM TO ST. LEONARD CREEK TRAIL

Distance: It is approximately 1 mile, one-way from the park's northern access point to the southern access point. There are options for further distances and extended excursions.
Difficulty: Challenging

This route is on open water and should not be attempted by inexperienced paddlers. The trail starts at the Park's northern water access point. The site is a sandy beach that slopes down from an upland grassy area. The slope can be slippery at times, so use caution as you make your way to the water. Head south on the Patuxent River for approximately 1 mile. Look for a series of stone breakwaters along the shoreline. These indicate that you are nearing Petersons Point at the mouth of St. Leonard Creek. The southern water access site is located on the beach behind the second breakwater on the western side of Peterson's Point.

Paddlers seeking extended excursions can launch from Nan's Cove and follow the shoreline for approximately 4.45 miles to the northern access site at Jefferson Patterson Park. Another option is to launch from the southern access site at Petersons Point and go north on St. Leonard Creek.

JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM

GPS: 39°36'12.52"N 77°17'37.08"W
Managed by: Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, 410-586-8501
Amenities: There are two water access sites at the Park. Each is for launching or retrieving non-motorized watercraft only. The first site is a sandy beach area located at the northern end of the Park along the Patuxent River. There is a small parking lot located off of the Park's exit road which is within walking distance to the access site. Visitors are permitted to drive to the access site to load or unload boats only. All vehicles must park in the parking lot.

The second water access site is located on the beach at the southern tip of the Park, at Petersons Point. Visitors are permitted to drive to the access site to load or unload boats only. All vehicles must park in the parking lot near the Museum Service Center, which is about .3 of a mile from the access point. For more information visit www.jefpat.org/index.html
Hours and fee: The Park is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to dusk except for Thanksgiving, Christmas

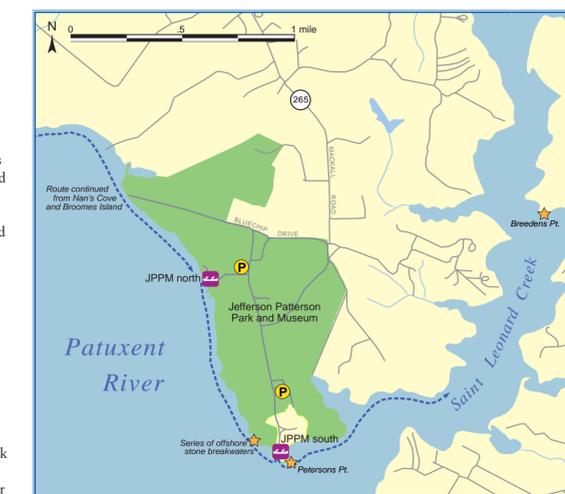
6 SOLOMONS ISLAND TRAIL

Total Distance: It is approximately 2 miles round trip heading north from the boat ramp to Point Patience or heading south from the boat ramp to Sandy Point. Routes can be extended by continuing into Back Creek or exploring the many coves in the area.
Difficulty: Challenging

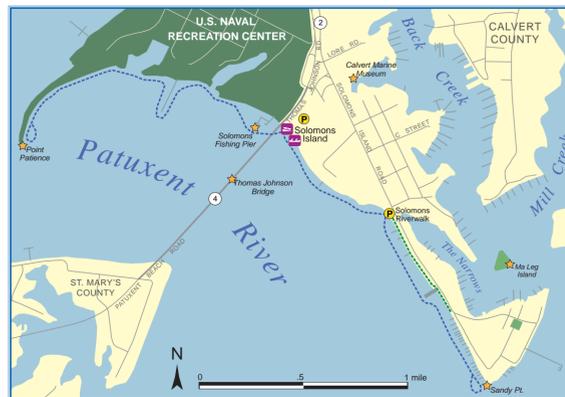
Solomons Island boat ramp is the southernmost public boat ramp on the Patuxent River. This is an extremely popular facility and often fills to capacity during the boating season. Since there are no other public access sites nearby, each route starts and ends at this site. This area is considered challenging because paddlers are exposed to the open waters of the Patuxent River and the influence of tides, currents and weather conditions. The area around Solomons Island sees intense boating traffic and is frequented by motorized vessels of all sizes. Boat traffic, wakes and vessels moving at speed can be dangerous to paddlers, particularly those who are unskilled or unaware. Stay alert and always consult tide charts and the weather report before launching from this site.

SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP

GPS: 39°22'10.72"N 77°23'16.79"W
Managed by: The Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Center, 410-535-5327
Amenities: This site has four concrete boat ramps for launching motorized watercraft. A separate area for launching non-motorized vessels is located on the south side of boat ramps. There is a large paved lot to accommodate trailers and cars and ADA accessible parking spaces for both. There is a permanent restroom (available April 1st through November 1st), a 24-hour fishing/crabbing pier and a tackle shop located on site.
Hours and fee: The boat ramp is open 24-hours. A fee is required for motorized vessels. Daily and seasonal passes are available. Visit www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1284 for a full list of



and New Year's Day. No fee. The visitor center is open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March 1 through November 15. **Directions:** Take MD Rt. 2/4 (Solomons Island Road) south to Prince Frederick. Go through Prince Frederick and continue on Rt. 2/4 for approximately 3 miles. Turn right on Route 264 (Broomes Island Road) and continue for 2 miles, then turn left on Route 265 (Mackall Road) and continue for six miles. Turn right into the Park.
Address: 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD



fees. No fee is required to launch non-motorized kayaks, canoes, or similar watercraft not transported by a trailer. Do not block the ramp while loading or unloading. **Directions:** Take MD Rt. 2/4 (Solomons Island Road) south into Solomons. Stay in the right hand lane to enter the town center. Turn right into the boat ramp which is located under the bridge.
Address: 14195 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, MD